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WASHINGTON, JULY 6, REUTER -- TWO FORMER DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) CALLED TODAY FOR AN INCREASE IN ITS COVERT OPERATIONS.
WILLIAM COLBY, CIA DIRECTOR UNDER PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD, SAID: ''I CERTAINLY THINK WE NEED A MAJOR MOVE BACK TO THE COVERT ACTIVITY WHICH DECLINED VERY SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.
''SOMETHING LIKE FIVE PER CENT OR LESS OF OUR BUDGET WAS DEVOTED TO COVERT INFLUENCE ABROAD (IN RECENT YEARS) AND IN THE WORLD AROUND US NOW I THINK WE OUGHT TO HAVE MORE THAN THAT;'' HE SAID ON ABC TELEVISION'S ''GOOD MORNING AMERICA'' SHOW.
ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER, CIA DIRECTOR UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER, SAID ON THE SAME PROGRAM FROM WASHINGTON THAT AFTER SOME YEARS OF DECLINE, COVERT ACTION WAS ''BROUGHT BACK TO A SOUND FOOTING UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER.''
HE NOTED THAT THE MORE AGGRESSIVE THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY, ''THE MORE LIKELY YOU ARE TO USE COVERT ACTION AS A SUPPLEMENT TO DIPLOMACY AND AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR MILITARY FORCE.''Z

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ASKED WHETHER HELPING TO OVERTHROW A GOVERNMENT WAS A ''LEGITIMATE FUNCTION'' OF THE CIA, MR COLBY REPLIED: ''CERTAINLY, IF THAT IS DECIDED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.''
HE ADDED: ''IF OUR GOVERNMENT DECIDES IT'S IMPORTANT TO HELP SOME OF OUR FRIENDS, IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN A RUTHLESS DICTATOR WE DON'T LIKE AND A TERRORIST THAT DOESN'T LIKE US, THEN CERTAINLY IT IS AN APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE CIA TO HELP THAT ALTERNATIVE OF A SENSIBLE, MODERATE, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT GROW.''

(over)

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